Standing Committee on Natural Calamity

*279. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether matters regarding natural calamities vis-a-vis rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures are looked after only by the Ministry of Agriculture;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to set up a Standing Committee on Natural Calamities to look after the related matters especially as they have in the Ministries of Railways, Health, etc. for dealing with similar issues;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by Govemment to equip its machinery to meet the eventualities whenever a natural calamity strikes?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d) According to the Govemment of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), in the Ministry of Agriculture, is the nodal agency for coordination of relief measures necessitated by natural calamities, other than epidemics. The basic responsibility for undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures is of the State Govemment concerned. The role of Central Government is only supportive. The concerned Ministries/Departments provide the required assistance in their respective sectors directly to the State Govemment as also repair and restore the damaged infrastructure facilities under them. The coordination and monitoring of the Govemment of India's intervention is achieved through the National Crisis Management Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary and consisting of the Secretaries of the Ministries/Departments concemed and the Crisis Management Group headed by the Central Relief Commissioner in the DAC.

In view of the above institutional meachanism already in place, there is no proposal to set up a Standing Committee on Natural Calamities.

Failure of Satellite to warn against Cyclone

*280. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: